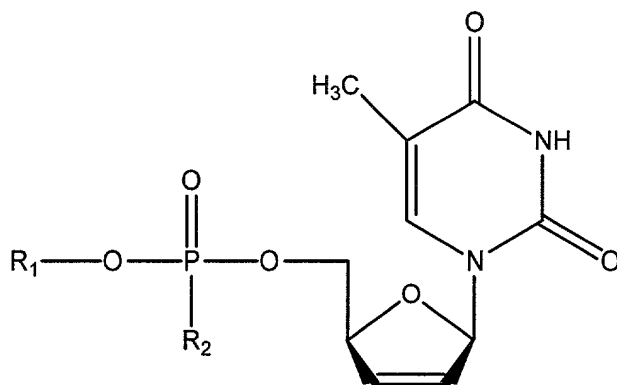


WE CLAIM:

1. A method for treating viral infections comprising extending the elimination half-life of d4T metabolite in a mammal by administering an effective amount of a compound of Formula I:



Formula I

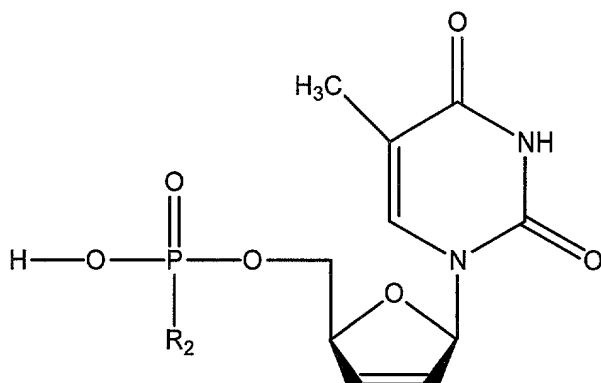
where R₁ is an aryl group substituted with an electron withdrawing group and R₂ is an amino acid residue or an ester of the amino acid residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the aryl group is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, and anthryl.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the aryl group is phenyl.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the electron-withdrawing group is a halo.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein R₁ is para-bromophenyl.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein R₂ is an α -amino acid or ester thereof.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein R₂ is -NHCH(CH₃)COOCH₃.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein R₁ is para-bromophenyl and R₂ is -NHCH(CH₃)COOCH₃.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the viral infection is HIV.

10. A method for treating HIV comprising extending the elimination half-life of d4T in a mammal by administering an effective amount of a compound of Formula IV:



Formula IV

where R₂ is an amino acid residue or an ester of the amino acid residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein R₂ is an α -amino acid or ester.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein R₂ is -NHCH(CH₃)COOCH₃.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the viral infection is HIV.